

and people, which surely was better for England than the revenue of the crown."

The Protestant leaders have been harshly blamed for thus turning the tables on their antagonists by the English alliance. Some of them doubtless, like Chatelherault, thought more of their personal interests than those of their country. That alliance had, too, been associated with the treachery and corruption of the Anglophile party during the reign of Henry VIII. It was, as "The Complaynt of Scotland" shows, regarded by most ardent patriots as the consummation of baseness, and its odium has been reflected on the reformers. The reformers, however, could advance weighty patriotic as well as religious reasons for their action, and it must be clear to every unprejudiced mind that, at this juncture, it saved Scotland from a craftily conceived bondage to a foreign power. The real danger to Scottish independence now lay, not on the side of England but on the side of France. Moreover, to be a supporter of the English alliance was not necessarily to be a renegade and an unpatriotic plotter. There were unionists, even in the days of Henry VIIIL, who were as conscientious and upright in their opinions as the most rabid supporter of the Franco-Scottish alliance. John Major and Balnaves, for instance—the one a staunch Catholic, the other a staunch Protestant. It is unnecessary to say aught in vindication of Major's enlightened politics, though he was a voice crying in the wilderness of his day. Of Balnaves it is sufficient to say that he lost his post of Secretary of State under Arran for his unionist principles. The Protestant policy was by no means essentially unpatriotic. It could be defended on national as well as religious and personal grounds.

The Parliament which convened for business in the beginning of August has been decried as an illegal assembly by those who see nothing but sedition and treachery in the Acts of 1560. Extraordinary it was; illegal it was not, for it is expressly stipulated that the assembly shall be in all respects as valid as an ordinary Parliament, "provided always that no matter whatever shall be treated of before the foresaid first day of August." It assembled, therefore, in strict accordance with the terms of the treaty. Those who are bent on picking holes in the Scottish Reformation further make much of the